GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2430
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SOIL EROSION
Agarwal Shri Dhirendra;Paraste Shri Dalpat Singh;Prasad Shri Hari Kewal

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any study on soil erosion in the country;

(b) if so, the details and the outcome thereof;

(c) the details of total soil erosion in the country including Madhya Pradesh during the last three years, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check the soil erosion and the success achieved so far?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE(SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA)

(a) & (b): Yes,Sir.As per latest estimates,nearly 73 and 12 million ha are under water erosion and wind erosion, respectively.The Central Soil and Water Conservation Research and Training Institute (CSWCRTI),Dehradun has developed several location specific bio-engineering measures to control soil erosion.

(c) The average rate of soil erosion in the country is 16.4 t/ha/yr,removing approximately 1 millimeter layer of top soil each year.The average rates (t/ha/year) for twelve states are;Madhya Pradesh-18.6, Andhra Pradesh-13.1, Assam-22.6, Bihar-7.3, Chhatisgarh-19.4, Gujarat-8.2, Karnataka-12.2, Maharashtra-12.7, Orissa-11.3, Rajasthan-15.9, Tripura-15.1 and W. Bengal-8.3.

(d) Based on the various location specific erosion control measures developed by CSWCRTI, Dehradun,the GOI has launched massive watershed development programmes in the country under various schemes during different Plan periods.The institute organized regular training courses for field functionaries and farmers on participatory watershed management.

Review of 311 completed watershed projects indicated benefits of increase in irrigated area (33%) and cropping intensity (63%), reduction of soil loss (to 0.8t/ha) and runoff (to 13%) with a benefit-cost ratio of 1:2.14 and internal rate of return of 22%.